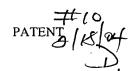
TRANSMITTA FORM  (to be used for all correspondence as	Filing Date First Named Inventor  Art Unit  Examiner Name	Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031 It and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE on of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.  09/293,297  04-16-1999  Shawn P. McAllister, et al.  2663  Duong, Duc T.
Total Number of Pages in This Submi		1400.9801200 t apply)
Fee Transmittal Form  Fee Attached  Amendment/Reply  After Final  Affidavits/declaration  Extension of Time Request  Express Abandonment Request  Information Disclosure State  Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)  Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application  Response to Missing under 37 CFR 1.52 of	est ment  Terminal Disclaimer  Request for Refund  CD, Number of CD(s)  Remarks	After Allowance communication to Group  Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)  Proprietary Information  Status Letter Other Enclosure(s) (please Identify below):  Return Receipt Post Card  FEB 1 1 2004  Technology Center 2600
	IGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORN	EY, OR AGENT
Firm or Individual name Signature	Ross D. Snyder, Reg. No.	37,730
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I hereby certify that this corresponde sufficient postage as first class mail the date shown below.	nce is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or	deposited with the United States Postal Service with lents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on
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Signature	Rose D. Sunda	Date 02/03/04

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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



EnApproximation (s): Shawn P. McAllister, et al.

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUPPORTING CONNECTION TYPE PARTITIONING IN A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

App. No.:

09/293,297

Filed: 04-16-1999

Examiner:

Duong, Duc T.

Group Art Unit:

2663

Atty. Dkt. No. 1400.9801200

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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**Technology Center 2600** 

**RESPONSE** 

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office action of 12-03-2003, Applicant submits the following response:

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-34 are pending. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-17, 19-31, 33, and 34. The Examiner has objected to claims 18 and 32. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of pending claims 1-34.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-17, 19-31, 33, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bertin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,687,167) in view of Tooker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,446,079 B2). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Regarding claims 1, 12, and 23, Applicant respectfully disagrees. In the Response to Arguments, the Examiner states, "Though in this case, the suggestion is not mentioned in Tooker, but is it understand to one of skill in the art using the SVCs and SPVCs links in ATM or frame relay network enable the network to setup a connections on-demand without the aid of a centrally management platform and are thus, more robust and efficient that PVCs." The Examiner does not cite